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ABSTRACT

A proposal for a library project for mentally and physically handicapped persons at Custer State Hospital includes a listening library for the residents of the hospital with a cassette player in each resident's room. Tape storage would be at the nurse's station on each floor, and the charge nurse on that floor would be responsible for the tapes. Circulation of the software would be done by resident's aides at the beginning of their shifts. Also proposed are listening booths to be set up on each floor, for those residents who are not bedridden. (AP)

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PROPOSAL FOR A LIBRARY PROJECT

FOR

SEVERELY-PROFOUNDLY RETARDED, MULTIPLE HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

CUSTER STATE HOSPITAL

AND

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARY

1977

When the concept of library service was broadened and added emphasis on service to the handicapped was encouraged, the South Dakota State Library Commission decided in 1976 to accept a proposal submitted by the Custer State Hospital for a library program to serve their extremely handicapped residents.

The attached proposal and the report of the project reflect an inovative approach of library service to the profoundly handicapped individual. Full credit for the project is due to Mr. Fridell and his staff. Inquiries about the project may be addressed to him.

Betty Siedschlaw, Consultant to
State Institutions for the
State of South Dakota

PROPOSAL FOR A LIBRARY PROJECT
FOR
SEVERELY-PROFOUNDLY RETARDED, MULTIPLE HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

Agency: Custer State Hospital
Rt. 1, Box 98
Custer, South Dakota 57730

Robert Henry Fridell
Therapy Activities Supervisor
673-4732

Proposed Project Title: Custer State Hospital Listening Library

Population:

Custer State Hospital is a residential institution for the severely-profoundly retarded, multiple handicapped. The age range of our 181 residents is from three to sixty-six. The main difference between Custer State Hospital and Redfield State Hospital and School, the other institution in the state for the mentally retarded, is that Custer's population is generally more physically handicapped, or need closer medical supervision. Very few of our residents are ambulatory and many have very limited use of their limbs. While most of our residents are up for part of the day in wheelchairs or other supportive mobile devices, few can move their own chairs. Our residents are moved from area to area, activity to activity. Turning the pages of a book or turning a machine on-and-off is not feasible for the bulk of our population. Because of the physical handicaps of our residents, expressive language skills are at a minimum, whereas receptive language skills are much more developed. Particularly in the area of music, we see a wide variety of responses. It is probably the medium that we notice the most response, aside from one-to-one interaction, of course.

Physical Layout:

Custer State Hospital consists of three floors. The first floor is made up of the administrative, medical, nursing and therapy offices; the kitchen and dining area; and most therapy activity areas.

The top two floors are the resident living areas. Residents share their rooms with one to three roommates, giving more privacy than open ward living areas, yet too, offering the possibility of sharing stimulus generating equipment (record players, tape equipment, decorations, etc.).

To The Present:

The philosophy of the institution has been evolving in recent years, turning from a purely custodial facility to one that offers developmental programming through a wide range of activities and experiences. Our therapy programs involve sensory stimulation, skill training, motor and language development, physical therapy, recreation, prevocational, evening, and community based activities.

Currently, the library services of Custer State Hospital consist of a 16mm projector that is used four to six times a week to show residents, both in activity programs and in the living areas, movies obtained from the state library. We have a portable video tape machine, which has been used for resident viewing, but it is generally used for inservices and evaluation purposes.

On the 2nd and 3rd floors, televisions, stereos, tape players, and radios have primarily been purchased by individual residents (purchased in their behalf), or brought in by relatives, friends, or guardians. Historically the institution did buy televisions and the like for resident use, but with the changes Medicaid nas brought, the purchase of these items has since come out of personal funds.

Today there are many kinds of audio equipment on the floors, however, the problem arises that few of the systems are compatable with each other. Also, each resident has his own collection of records and tapes, which means that some have considerable accumulations, while others have none. There is also no monitoring system

to keep track of the records and tapes, so many are misplaced, lost, or stolen.

I estimate that the institution itself spends $200 per year on audio-visual equipment and consumable supplies. This includes repairing and replacing equipment, special film rentals, and the purchase of records tapes, and books for resident use.

Intent:

What we want to see happen, is for a listening medium to develop in the resident living areas that is capable of providing a wide range of listening experiences for all residents, no matter how physically handicapped.

Library Location:

In each resident's room there will be a tape player that will stay in that room, and will serve the residents in that area. If these tape players must be purchased, then those rooms with bedfast residents will be our first priority.

The tape storage area will be at the Nurse's Station on each floor, and the Charge Nurse on that floor will keep the key.

Population Served:

While all residents will have the Listening Library available to them, I forsee those residents who spend the greater portion of their day in bed or in their rooms because of health or positioning problems to benefit the most from the library. Those residents who are not mobile, who must stay in their rooms, are very difficult to provide stimulation and recreation for. We believe this library service will help us provide a variety of stimulating auditory experiences for these residents.

Hardware:

We are now exploring the possibility of obtaining cassette players from the Library of Congress. It is our understanding that the physically handicapped as well as the blind can qualify for their materials. Pillow phones are also being looked into.

If this system or resource does not serve our needs, then the equipment will be purchased using grant monies. What we are looking for is a system that is compatable with all other systems in the resident living areas, can offer a wide selection of software, and can withstand institutional use.

Software:

If we do go with the cassettes, then the tapes will be purchased locally and ordered from the Library of Congress. Again, a wide variety of music is stressed. Also a lockable storage system will have to be made.

Circulation:

A check-out system is being developed where each resident's aide, at the beginning of their shift, will be able to check out a tape for each of the rooms she has residents in that she cares for. During the shift the aide will be able to check in-and-out various tapes to provide a variety of stimulation for the residents in that room. At the end of each shift, all materials will be checked in. All headphones/pillowphones will be checked in and out too.

Inservice:

Behavior Therapy periodically provides Nursing with inservices; it is planned that a portion of each inservice will be spent discussing the Listening Library. New aides will learn the intent and mechanics of the service, and feedback can be received from the experienced aides who are using the system. In this way too, we can monitor the effectiveness of the system and find out what new materials

should be purchased: how can we make it work better.

Something More:

If funding permits, we would also like to set up Listening Booths in the Floor Activities Room on each floor. These are areas where Behavior Therapy provides activities for residents who do not leave the living areas. It is intended that the booths be for residents who are up in wheelchairs. What we are looking for is appropriate use of resident leisure time. The grant monies would be spent in this area on the booth itself, and playback equipment if the Library of Congress equipment does not prove to be the best system in our situation.

Intended Objectives:

Standardization of listening hardware so the equipment is each room is compatable with the equipment in every other room.

Provide auditory stimulation for residents who do not have a radio, record player, radio, etc., in their rooms and who spend the greater portion of their day there.

Provide a variety of listening experience, that is available to all residents.

Post script:

Having played the guitar here for residents, and organized the Rolling Rhythm Band, I have seen how music can influence a resident's behavior. I am quite interested in what the effects of this project will be. I have seen a self-abusive resident calmed by a fife and drum march, and unresponsive/self-stimulating children sit up and listen for a soft guitar. It is just a matter of experimenting.

LISTENING LIBRARY PROJECT

(FY 77 Progress Report--Final)

In July 1976, on the recommendation of Betty Siedschlaw, Institutional Consultant for the South Dakota State Library, Custer State Hospital submitted a grant proposal for a Listening Library for residents to use in their living areas. The grant money is funded under Title I of the Library Services and Construction Act (P.L. 91-600, 20 U.S.C. 351) and is intended to establish and improve libraries in institutions.

The State Library Commission understood that in order to provide a library service for our population of severely-profoundly retarded multiple handicapped non-ambulatory residents, that an innovative approach would need to be developed. The Commission felt that the proposal showed promise, and approved it. In December we received our first monies and began to design, order, and purchase the equipment we would need. By spring, the total amount of the grant monies had been sent to us.

Miguel Apaza, a toy and furniture maker of the Backwoods Shop in Deadwood was contacted. He designed and constructed two cassette storage units capable of holding 200 cassettes each. These cases will house the cassettes in the resident living areas.

Bids were taken from Rapid City music stores, and Budget Tapes and Records gave the low bid for pre-recorded cassette tapes. Many of the titles we wanted needed to be special ordered from the factory, and Kevin Probst of Budget Tapes and Records has been helpful in finding these hard to get tapes for us.

Letters were written to 14 recording companies asking for pre-recorded cassette donations, and Warner Brothers Records, Incorporated, through the efforts of

Bernie Freedman, sent us ten current releases.

Three cassette tape playing machines were purchased from Radio Shack to record our resident Rollin' Rhythm Band and other activities for inclusion in our library selection; to provide machines for those residents who do not qualify for Library Services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped; and to rerecord tapes.

During this initial period, I met with the Direct Care staff aides during their coffee breaks to explain the proposed library system, listened to their suggestions, and found out which residents they felt would benefit from the service. Since it is the Direct Care personnel who will deliver the service to residents, it is of utmost importance to keep them informed about the system, its utilization, and get their feedback.

Once we gathered a list of residents who might benefit and enjoy the service, John Vincent of the South Dakota State Library, Library Services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped, was contacted. For those residents who qualified for the Library's services, cassette machine players and appropriate tapes were ordered.

Throughout the year, Betty Siedschlaw has come to Custer to assist us concerning the selection of materials, finding resources, cataloging tapes and the use of the Listening Library. None of us working at Custer have any experience in the mechanics of library services, and we have relied heavily on Betty's skills.

The establishment of the Listening Library has been a tedious and time consuming task. Wanda Wheeler, our Activities Therapy Aide that works part time on the project, and Robert H. Fridell, Therapy Activities Supervisor, are the only staff members working with the library. I estimate that we can spend at the most ten percent of each week on the project due to our other responsibilities in the

institution. At present we are cataloging tapes, establishing our card file system, and waiting for our tape orders and Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped tape machines to arrive. I estimate that by mid-summer the system will be in the living areas being used by residents.

In the meantime, our activity programs are experimenting with the variety of music, story, and spoken word tapes we have received, and have found residents attentive and receptive to the medium. We are trying to record those residents' voices who can vocalize and have them listen to themselves. These experiences are the first of their kind for many residents.

Ellen Zahrt, our Speech Therapist, is quite interested in the use of the Library, and has assisted in the selection of tapes for the purpose of improving resident communication skills.

Our goal for the past year has been to organize the Listening Library and ready it for use. In the coming year, we will see it introduced into the living areas, monitor its use, and make adjustments in its utilization as needed. Meetings and inservices will be held with the Direct Care staff to explain the system to new employees, and to get th eir input in regard to its utilization and selection of materials.

In the coming year, FY '78, should our project be funded again, I would like to

see more cassette tapes purchased to replace those that will be damaged from use, and to expand the variety of tape selection. More tape machines will be purchased for those residents who cannot qualify for the Library Services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped materials.

In the coming year, too, I will investigate the new copyright laws to see if it is possible for us to record our pre-recorded cassettes on longer blank tapes to enable our residents to have longer periods of listening.

The tape players we have received from the Library Service to the Blind and Physically Handicapped have enabled us to set up this library service and have been invaluable to us for that reason. However, as funding permits, we will replace the tape machines with purchased machines due to the unpredictable quality of sound reproduction, and the requirement that the machines must follow the residents to which they are issued. When residents move from one room in the hospital to another, we have had to cancel some machines and order others in order to maintain the library service in each of the semi-private rooms. We have but a limited amount of staff time to devote to the project, and feel it could be better spent improving and monitoring the system, rather than ordering, canceling, and waiting for tape players.

We have found the cassette tapes that the Library Services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped offers are of excellent quality and found their selection of children's stories and music to be appropriate for our population. I would like to see the Service offer more music selections, particularly items which are not currently available on pre-recorded cassettes, such as music from different cultures (Native American for example), international selections.

sound effects, environmental sounds, etc. At the present only a fraction of the records produced are also available in cassette form, and we are therefore limited in what we can make available in our system.

We owe many people our thanks for the opportunity to experiment with this new library service, and for the support and cooperation we have received. I have listed those organizations and individuals whose contributions to our Listening Library have been significant in this development in the following section titled "Resources". An idea that five years ago would not be thought of, is possible today. Our change in awareness, from the legislative to the service delivery levels, have enabled us to develop the Listening Library. As we develop the potential of those we serve, so our own potential grows. Thanks.

Robert Henry Fridell/s/

Robert Henry Fridell
Therapy Activities Supervisor

State People and Organizations:

South Dakota State Library Commission
South Dakota State Library
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dr. Herschel V. Anderson, State Librarian
South Dakota State Library
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Betty Siedschlaw, Institutional Consultant
South Dakota State Library
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

John Vincent, Director
Library Services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped
South Dakota State Library
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Businesses:

Miguel Apaza, Toy and Furniture Maker
Backwoods Shop
Lee Street
Deadwood, South Dakota 57732

Kevin Probst
Budget Tapes and Records
623 St. Joe Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Bernie Freedman
Warner Brothers Records, Inc.
3300 Warner Boulevard
Burbank, California 91510

Radio Shack, A Tandy Corporation Company
Baken Park Shopping Center
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Catalogs and Guides:

Schwann Record and Tape Guide, Schwann Children's Catalog
137 Newbury Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Cassette Books
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542

Print and Non-print Materials Which Might be Considered for Purchase by Correctional Institutions for Juveniles
South Dakota State Library Institutional Services
South Dakota State Library
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Troll Associates
320 Route 17
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430

Custer State Hospital

Listening Library Project

FY 77 Budget Report

Income:

1. Title I, Library Services and Construction Act	$ 2,341.47
Total Income	$ 2,341.47

Expenditures:

1. Two tape storage units	$ 170.00
2. Cassette tapes	2,016.64
3. File boxes and supplies	21.26
4. Tape machines and accessories	133.57
Total Expenditures	$ 2,341.47
Income Over Expenditures:	$ 0.00